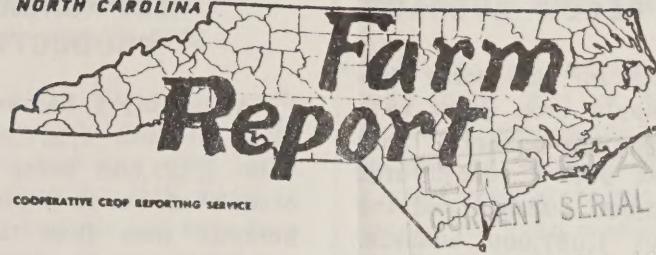


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NORTH CAROLINA



JUL 31 1953

No. 138

RALEIGH, N. C.

JULY 17, 1953

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FLUE-CURED CROP OFF 1.4 PERCENT

N. C. Flue-Cured Crop Slightly Below Last Year

Based upon condition as of July 1, the total 1953 production of flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina is forecast at 885,225,000 pounds. Such a crop would be only 1.4 percent below that of 1952 despite a 7 percent drop in acreage. However, this year's production would be nearly 10 percent below that of 1951. Estimated flue-cured production in the State this year by types compares with 1952 as follows: Type 11: 287,025,000 pounds in 1953 compares with 333,050,000 pounds in 1952; Type 12: 479,950,000 compares with 452,120,000; Type 13: 118,250,000 compares with 115,920,000 pounds in 1952.

National flue-cured production is currently estimated at 1,319,704 pounds or 3.3 percent below 1952.

Burley production in North Carolina is currently estimated at 19,775,000 for 1953 or nearly 2 percent below 1952 and slightly over 7 percent below 1951.

Acreagewise, farmers in the State expressed no changes from their intentions reported last March. Thus, an estimated 684,000 acres of flue-cured tobacco are expected to be harvested this year which is about 7 percent below the 735,000 acres harvested in 1952. The 1953 flue-cured acreage in North Carolina by types compares with 1952 as follows: Type 11: 267,000 acres in 1953 compares with 287,000 acres in 1952; Type 12: 331,000 compares with 356,000; Type 13: 86,000 compares with 92,000 acres in 1952.

(Continued on Page 2)

N. C. Cotton Acreage Up

On the basis of information supplied by cotton growers, the acreage of cotton in cultivation on North Carolina farms on July 1 is estimated at 770,000 acres. This is 17,000 acres or 2 percent more than the acreage in cultivation on July 1 last year. The 10-year (1942-51) average acreage in cultivation on July 1 is 729,000 acres.

Although some replanting was required, most growers obtained better than normal stands. The weather has favored plant growth and the crop generally has made good development.

On the basis of available evidence, the percentage of boll weevil infestation is above normal for this date in all producing counties. Growers are finding it necessary to follow a fairly rigid dusting schedule to keep infestation within reasonable limits.

Assuming that abandonment after July 1 approximates the 10-year average, North Carolina growers will harvest around 759,000 acres of cotton this year.

For the Nation as a whole, it is estimated that the acreage of cotton in cultivation July 1 this year totaled 24,618,000 acres -- 8.6 percent less than the acreage in cultivation July 1 a year ago. Practically all of this decrease occurred in Oklahoma and Texas where severe drouth conditions prevail. The acreage in Texas is off 18 percent and in Oklahoma 19 percent from the previous year. Other States reporting less acreage this year are South

(Continued on Page 2)

APPLE CROP BELOW AVERAGE

Current prospects for the North Carolina commercial apple crop point to a total production of 944,000 bushels. This compares with last year's record high production of 2,053,000 bushels and the 10-year average of 1,067,000 bushels.

The poor crop this year is due primarily to the weakened condition of the trees resulting from last year's bumper production. A lot of trees did not bloom at all this year and fruit buds were weak on those that did bloom. Foliage has been heavy throughout the commercial area. There was also some frost and freeze damage and weather conditions generally were unfavorable for good pollination.

COTTON *(Continued)*

Carolina, down 3 percent; Georgia, down 5 percent; and Arkansas, down 1 percent. Increases were reported for all other producing states except California where practically no change is reported.

Acreage Of Cotton In Cultivation On July 1, 1953 And Prior Years, All States

STATE	10-year Average Abandonment From Natural Causes 1943-52	Average 1942-51 (000) Acres	1952 (000) Acres	1953 (000) Acres	1953 % of 1952
North Carolina	1.4%	729	753	770	102
Missouri.....	3.2	454	495	515	104
Virginia.....	3.1	27	26	30	115
South Carolina	0.6	1,068	1,109	1,080	97
Georgia.....	0.8	1,380	1,439	1,365	95
Florida.....	2.3	38	55	65	118
Tennessee.....	1.5	727	841	905	108
Alabama.....	0.6	1,552	1,556	1,590	102
Mississippi...	2.3	2,431	2,399	2,430	101
Arkansas.....	2.6	2,002	1,910	1,885	99
Louisiana.....	1.6	870	899	920	102
Oklahoma.....	5.8	1,330	1,283	1,045	81
Texas.....	3.3	8,376	11,756	9,600	82
New Mexico....	2.4	180	310	320	103
Arizona.....	0.5	264	669	678	101
California....	0.6	583	1,407	1,404	100
Other States..	4.5	18	15	16	107
United States.	2.5	22,029	26,922	24,618	91.4

HAY ACREAGE DOWN PRODUCTION UP

As of July 1, hay acreage in North Carolina totaled 1,207,000 acres compared with 1,227,000 acres last year -- a decrease of about 2 percent and almost 5 percent less than the 1942-51 average harvested acreage.

Total production for 1953 is estimated at 1,335,000 tons, second to the record high production of 1,352,000 tons in 1945. This compares with last year's production of 1,325,000 tons and the 10-year average of 1,280,000 tons. This year's high production is due entirely to the good yields

(Continued on Page 7)

TOBACCO *(Continued)*

Burley acreage for harvest in the State at 11,300 acres is about 6 percent below the 12,000 acres harvested in 1952.

The total U. S. flue-cured acreage at 1,030,900 acres estimated for harvest in 1953 is about 7 percent below 1952.

INDICATED SWEETPOTATO PRODUCTION ABOVE 1952

As of July 1, North Carolina sweetpotato production is set at 4,950,000 bushels -- a 27 percent increase over 1952. This production, if realized, will mean an average yield of 110 bushels per acre from the State's 45,000 acres of sweetpotatoes. Favorable weather in most sections of the State, especially in the heavier producing eastern counties, during and after the time the crop was set has resulted in a good stand and growth thus far.

In 1952 there were 3,900,000 bushels produced in the State from 39,000 acres, giving an average yield of 100 bushels per acre.

RECORD SORGHUM ACREAGE

North Carolina farmers indicate they will harvest 80,000 acres of sorghum for all purposes during 1953. This is the largest crop of record for the State and 38 percent greater than the previous record of 58,000 acres harvested in 1952. Reports show that grain sorghums are gaining in popularity and, in fact, have replaced corn on some farms.

PEANUT ACREAGE RECORD LOW

July 1 reports from peanut growers in North Carolina indicate that 193,000 acres of the crop was planted for all purposes this year -- the lowest of record. Last year, the second lowest of record, 210,000 acres were grown for all purposes while the 1942-51 average is 294,000 acres. The record low is due mainly to the sharp decrease in allotments. It is estimated that 201,000 acres (revised) were picked and threshed last year - the lowest since 1933-when 190,000 acres were picked and threshed. This compares with the 10-year average of 277,000 acres. Production last year (revised) totaled 311,550,000 pounds - the 10-year average is 304,009,000 pounds. A forecast of picked and threshed acreage and production for this year will be available about August 11.

RECORD CORN CROP INDICATED

North Carolina farmers will harvest a 1953 corn crop of 74,902,000 bushels. This will exceed the previous record production in 1950 of 74,184,000 bushels. A 1953 crop of 74,902,000 bushels would exceed the 1952 crop of 56,176,000 bushels by 18,726,000 bushels or 33 percent.

The 1953 average yield per acre is estimated at a record 34 bushels. The previous record yield of 33 bushels was set in 1950. Hot and dry weather was primarily responsible for the low yield of 25.5 bushels last year.

Growers have indicated they would harvest 2,203,000 acres of corn this year, which is the same acreage harvested last year.

PEACH PROSPECTS DECREASE

The July 1 estimate of production from the State's commercial and farm peach crops dropped to 1,300,000 bushels -- 60,000 bushels less than the June 1 estimate and 348,000 bushels less than the 1952 production.

Harvesting of earlier varieties has been underway since the first part of June with reports indicating that size and quality have generally been very good. Heaviest picking of Elbertas, the major variety, is expected during the last of July and first of August.

RECORD PRODUCTION OF OATS

Production of oats during the current year is estimated at 15,314,000 bushels, which set a new record. The 1953 crop was harvested from 403,000 acres compared with 373,000 acres in 1952. The 1953 crop of 15,314,000 bushels exceeds last year's production of 12,682,000 bushels by 21 percent.

A record yield of 38 bushels is also estimated for the current crop. This compares with the previous record yield of 35.5 bushels set in 1951 and 34 bushels last year.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, 1952 AND INDICATED 1953. NORTH CAROLINA

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE		YIELD			PRODUCTION			Thousands
		Average 1942-51	Harvested 1952	Indicated 1953	Average 1942-51	1952	Indicated 1953	Average 1942-51	1952	
Units										
Corn, all.....	Bu.	2,232	2,203	2,203	27.4	25.5	34.0	61,059	56,176	74,902
Wheat, all.....	Bu.	427	396	388	16.1	21.0	20.0	6,860	8,316	7,760
Oats.....	Bu.	354	373	403	28.5	34.0	38.0	10,206	12,682	15,314
Barley.....	Bu.	39	43	40	26.2	32.5	37.0	1,001	1,398	1,480
Rye.....	Bu.	26	15	14	12.0	15.0	14.0	303	225	196
Sorghums, all.....	Lbs.	33	58	80	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tobacco, Flue-cured.....	Lbs.	670.0	735.0	684	1,154	1,222	1,294	775,291	898,090	885,225
Type 11.....	Lbs.	261.7	287.0	267	1,084	1,150	1,075	284,910	330,050	287,025
Type 12.....	Lbs.	328.2	356.0	331	1,203	1,270	1,450	395,530	452,120	479,950
Type 13.....	Lbs.	80.1	92.0	86	1,180	1,260	1,375	94,852	115,920	118,250
Type 31.....	Lbs.	10.3	12.0	11.3	1,487	1,680	1,750	15,567	20,160	19,775
Cotton 1/.....	Lbs.	729	753	770	-	-	-	-	-	-
Irish Potatoes, all.....	Bu.	74	44	47	132	124	135	9,513	5,456	6,345
Sweetpotatoes, all.....	Bu.	60	39	45	107	100	110	6,492	3,900	4,950
Soybeans grown alone.....	Bu.	400	432	393	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, for beans.....	Bu.	252	290	259	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts grow. alone.....	Bu.	294	210	193	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts picked & threshed.	Lbs.	277	201	-	1,106	1,550	-	304,009	311,550 4/	-
Hay, all.....	Tons	1,266	1,227	1,207	1.01	1.08	1.11	1,280	1,325	1,335
Clover & timothy 2/.....	Tons	93	106	105	1.14	1.10	1.15	106	117	121
Alfalfa hay.....	Tons	30	70	77	2.10	2.05	2.20	64	144	169
Lespedeza hay.....	Tons	509	518	513	1.08	1.10	1.10	551	570	564
Pasture condition.....	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	81	71	82
Peaches.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,731	1,648	1,300
Apples, commercial 3/.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,067	2,053	944
Pears.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	179	172	158
Grapes.....	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.8	2.7	2.6

1/ Acreage in cultivation July 1. 2/ Excludes sweetclover & lespedeza hay. 3/ Estimates of the commercial crop refer to the total production of apples in the commercial apple areas of each state. 4/ 1952 revised.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, 1952 AND INDICATED 1953, UNITED STATES

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE		YIELD			PRODUCTION		
		Average 1942-51	Harvested 1952	Indicated 1953	Average 1942-51	1952	Indicated 1953	Average 1942-51	1952
Thousands									Thousands
Corn, all.....	Bu.	86,447	81,359	80,694	35.2	40.6	41.3	3,036,380	3,306,735
Wheat, all.....	Bu.	45,249	50,348	46,105	17.6	20.9	17.8	797,237	1,052,801
Oats.....	Bu.	39,503	38,643	39,433	33.5	32.8	33.4	1,324,614	1,268,280
Barley.....	Bu.	11,831	8,264	8,455	25.1	27.5	29.2	295,299	227,008
Rye.....	Bu.	2,108	1,385	1,375	12.2	11.5	12.7	25,837	15,910
Sorghums, all.....	Lbs.	14,108	10,841	13,617	-	-	-	-	17,422
Tobacco, all.....	Lbs.	1,677.4	1,773.0	1,655.6	1,158	1,272	1,284	1,948,844	2,254,855
Tobacco, flue-cured.....	Lbs.	996.9	1,111.3	1,030.9	1,144	1,229	1,280	1,144,616	1,365,341
Cotton 1/.....	Lbs.	22,029	26,922	24,618	-	-	-	-	-
Irish potatoes, all.....	Bu.	2,265.2	1,398.0	1,501.7	191.2	248.6	250.9	411,007	347,504
Sweetpotatoes.....	Bu.	583.3	325.8	351.6	93.6	86.8	93.0	54,331	28,292
Soybeans grown alone.....	Bu.	13,300	15,643	15,781	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans for beans.....	Bu.	11,114	14,075	14,335	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts grown alone.....	Bu.	3,664	1,938	1,895	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts picked & threshed	Lb.	2,951	1,459	-	714	928	-	2,062,522	1,354,010 4/
Hay, all.....	Tons	74,666	74,664	74,967	1.37	1.40	1.40	102,296	104,424
Alfalfa.....	Tons	15,925	19,024	20,019	2.21	2.23	2.14	35,252	42,438
Clover & Timothy 2/.....	Tons	22,087	21,683	21,276	1.40	1.46	1.41	31,024	31,755
Lespedeza.....	Tons	6,629	5,661	6,125	1.07	.91	.98	7,110	5,147
Pasture condition.....	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	87	77
Peaches.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	67,012	62,560
Apples, commercial 3/.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	109,224	92,489
Pears.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,396	30,947
Grapes.....	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,874.2	3,173.4

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1/ Acreage in cultivation July 1. 2/ Excludes sweetclover & Lespedeza hay. 3/ Estimates of the commercial crop refer to the total production of apples in the commercial apple areas of each state. 4/ 1952 revised.

JUNE WEATHER SUMMARY

General rains in June brought an end to the near-drought conditions which had been typical in May. A tropical storm which had remained almost stationary in the Gulf of Mexico during the first six days of June moved northward and inland over the southeastern states on the 7th and 8th, giving all sections of N. C. the heaviest general rains in many weeks. Other general rains, occurring mainly on the 13th and 17th days of the month gave added encouragement to growth of crops.

The hot spell of the last of May carried over into the first day of June as temperatures in the middle and upper 90's were observed at many locations outside the mountains; in Lumberton, the mercury reached the 100-degree mark on the first two days of the month. Following this unseasonably hot weather, a series of cooling weather fronts moving southward across the state gave most areas maximum readings generally in the 80's for the succeeding three weeks. This moderate weather was followed by a general warming up during the last seven days of the month as the mercury climbed gradually into the low 90's. Averages for the entire month were near or slightly below seasonal normals, based on long-term records for June.

Rain fell on some parts of N. C. on 24 out of the 30 days of June, the heaviest falls being measured on the 7th, 13th and

22d days. The heavy general rain of the 13th was accompanied in many sections by heavy electrical storms, high winds and hail in some scattered locations. One of the heaviest falls occurred at Neuse, on the 13th, when 5.1 inches fell in less than 24 hours. A cloudburst at Wilson, on the 22d, dropped 4-1/4 inches in 3-1/2 hours, flooding streets, basements and houses in low places.

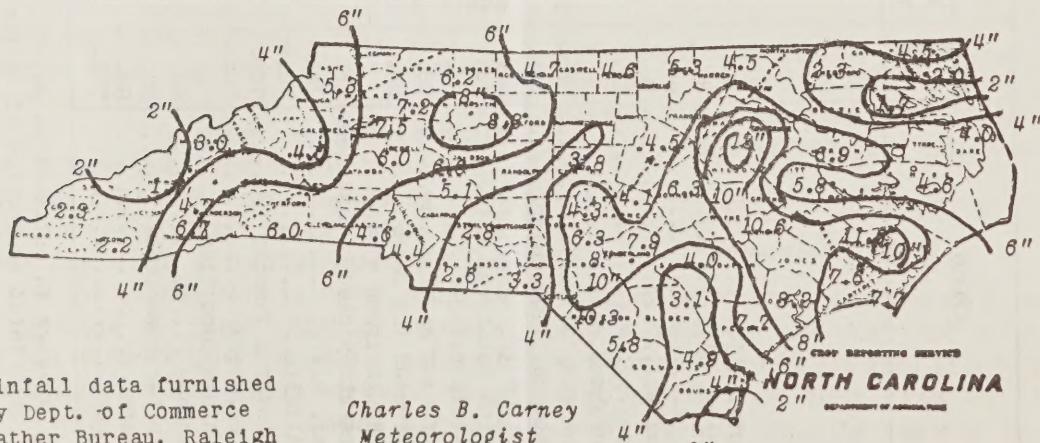
SOYBEAN ACREAGE DOWN

The acreage of soybeans planted alone for all purposes is estimated at 393,000 acres as of July 1. This is about 9 percent less than the 432,000 acres last year and approximately 2 percent less than the 1942-51 average of 400,000 acres. The acreage of soybeans to be harvested for beans is estimated at 259,000 acres, a decrease of 31,000 acres from last year.

N. C. BARLEY PRODUCTION SETS NEW RECORD

Barley production in 1953 is estimated at 1,480,000 bushels. This is a record crop and compares with the previous record 1952 crop of 1,398,000 bushels. The estimated 1953 per acre yield of 37.0 bushels exceeds the previous record set in 1951 by one bushel and compares with the 1952 yield of 32.5 bushels.

NORTH CAROLINA-INCHES OF RAINFALL, JUNE 1953



RECORD JUNE MILK PRODUCTION IN N. C.

Estimated milk production in N. C. totaled 157 million pounds during June, the highest of record for June and only 2 million pounds short of the all-time high for any month which was set in May of this year when production reached 159 million pounds. Production during June 1952 was 145 million pounds while the 1942-51 average for the month is 140 million pounds.

Milk production on U. S. farms passed its June peak somewhat earlier than usual this year, but continued at a relatively high level through the month. National output during June is estimated at 12.3 billion pounds, 4 percent more than a year ago and the largest since 1947.

JUNE EGG PRODUCTION RECORD HIGH

North Carolina farm flocks produced a total of 116 million eggs during June -- an increase of 3 million eggs over the June 1952 production, the previous record holder June output.

There were an estimated 7,746,000 layers on farms during June. This compares with 7,729,000 layers on farms during June 1952.

The rate of lay for June was 1,497 eggs per 100 layers compared with 1,458 eggs during June a year ago. This also set a new record high, exceeding the old record set in June 1948 and tied during June 1951.

In the United States, farm flocks laid 5,051 million eggs in June - 1 percent more than in June last year but 1 percent less than the 1942-51 average.

HAY (*Continued*)

realized from each hay crop, with the average yield for "all hay" setting a new record of 1.11 tons per acre. The previous record "all hay" yield was set last year with an average of 1.08 tons per acre.

41.5 PERCENT OF CORN ACREAGE PLANTED WITH HYBRID SEED

North Carolina corn producers used hybrid seed corn to plant 920,000 acres or 41.5 percent of their 1953 crop. This compares with 941,000 acres or 42.0 percent of the total acreage planted with hybrid seed in 1952 and 834,000 acres or 38 percent of the 1951 crop. Tar Heel farmers planted a total of 2,218,000 acres of corn this year, 2,240,000 in 1952 and 2,196,000 in 1951. Replanting requirements were relatively heavy in some areas this year and reports at planting time indicated that supplies of hybrid seed were not adequate to meet the demands in some localities.

For the entire Nation farmers planted a total of nearly 70.6 million acres with hybrids in 1953. Over two-thirds of all the corn acreage planted is in the North Central States and of this 96 percent is planted with hybrids. For the remainder of the country, hybrids were used on about 63 percent of the acreage. And for the country as a whole, over 86 percent - nearly 7 out of every 8 acres - was planted with hybrid seed.

WHEAT CROP BELOW LAST YEAR

The 1953 wheat crop is estimated at 7,760,000 bushels from 388,000 acres. The 1953 crop is below the 1952 crop of 8,316,000 bushels and is 14 percent less than the record 1951 crop of 9,016,000 bushels.

This year's average yield per acre is estimated at 20 bushels. This compares with 21 bushels last year and the record of 23 bushels in 1951.

Weather conditions apparently were more unfavorable for wheat than any other small grain. Wheat yields were reduced by freezing temperatures in April, wet weather during time of pollination, dry and hot weather in May, delay in applying top dressing owing to wet weather and frequent showers during the harvesting season just ended.

FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of the
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S. R. Newell, Assistant Chief
 and published by the

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Farm Wage Rates, North Carolina And South Atlantic States

Area and Classification	July 1 1952	July 1 1953
<u>North Carolina</u>		
Per day:		
With house	4.15	4.20
Without board or room	4.80	5.00
Per hour:		
With house, no meals.	-	-
Without board or room	.57	.57
<u>South Atlantic States</u>		
Per day:		
With house.....	3.90	4.00
Without board or room.	4.60	4.80
Per hour:		
With house, no meals...	-	-
Without board or room.	.58	.60

FARM WAGE RATES UP

July 1 wage rates indicate a 6 point increase in the farm wage rate index over July 1, 1952. The current index is 613 percent of the 1910-14 base period average compared to 607 percent last year.

This increase is due entirely to the "per day" wages. The rate per day with house increased from \$4.15 on July 1, 1952 to \$4.20 on July 1, 1953. The rate per day without board or room increased from \$4.80 to \$5.00 during the same period.

The average rate per hour without board or room remained the same at 57 cents per hour.

Farm wage rates in the South Atlantic States also increased during the same period.